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SECSTATE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BENNETT AND EUR/RPM
 DIRECTOR HAWES

SECDEF FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY TAFT

SHAPE FOR GENERAL ROGERS

NSC FOR ADMIRAL POINDEXTER

FROM ABSHIRE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: NATO, MARR

SUBJECT: SENATOR ROTH MAY COSPONSOR NUNN AMENDMENT.

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I HAVE JUST COMPLETED A LONG DISCUSSION OVER THE PHONE WITH SENATOR BILL ROTH. SINCE HE REFERRED TO A JOINT LETTER THAT HE AND SAM NUNN ARE SENDING OUT, I GATHER HE MAY BECOME A COSPONSOR OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT. ROTH HAS BEEN VERY TURNED OFF TOWARD EUROPE AS A RESULT OF HIS NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG. NEVERTHELESS, I URGED HIM TO GO BACK TO SAM NUNN AND TRY TO AGREE TO HOLD BACK ON THE AMENDMENT OUT OF DEFERENCE TO LORD CARRINGTON'S INAUGURATION NEXT MONDAY. THE TWO SENATORS COULD PUT IT IN THESE TERMS ON THE FLOOR. I SAID NUNN HAD ALREADY SENT A MESSAGE TO THE EUROPEANS: IT WAS ALL OVER THE NEWSPAPERS. ROTH ARGUED THAT A BETTER MESSAGE WOULD BE SENT IF THE AMENDMENT WERE TO PASS THE SENATE AND BE DROPPED IN CONFERENCE. I SAID THIS WOULD GIVE CARRINGTON A NEGATIVE MESSAGE OR "SANCTION" UPON ARRIVAL RATHER THAN A TEMPORARY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. ROTH SAID HE WOULD BE TALKING TO NUNN. HE HAD MIXED EMOTIONS.

3. I'VE ALREADY PASSED THIS ON TO TAP BENNETT.

ABSHIRE

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed

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